

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 3, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. JONES submitted the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Mrs. Anna M. McKenney, beg leave to report :*

That upon a reference of the petition to the Commissioner of Pensions, asking such official information as may be on file or record, both in reference to the service of the late Chaplain William McKenney, of the United States Navy, and also as to the circumstances of his death, they have received the following letters which they consider as furnishing sufficient evidence that the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

The letters referred to (marked "A" and "B") form a part of this report.

PENSION OFFICE, *May* 31, 1858.

SIR: In conformity with your request, under date of the 28th instant, for information as to the service and cause of the death of the Rev. William McKinney, chaplain in the United States navy, I have the honor to state that, according to the Navy Register, he entered the service September 8, 1841, and died therein May 4, 1857.

In the application made by his widow, Mrs. Anna McL. McKenney, for navy pension, it is claimed that he died of asthma, caused by exposure in burying one of the boat hands on the 28th of October, 1841; and the medical testimony filed therewith shows that Chaplain McKenney suffered severely for a number of years from asthma, and that his death was caused by that disease, in conjunction with the medical agents daily used by him to obtain relief; but there is no evidence which, under the rules of this office, could be considered as proving that such disease originated in the line of duty.

The above statement, together with the enclosed copy of a letter

from the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, dated November 10, 1857, comprises all the information before this office.

The petition of Mrs. McKenney is herewith returned.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. C. WHITING,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. GEO. W. JONES,

*Chairman Committee on Pensions, U. S. Senate.*

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

*Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, November 10, 1857.*

SIR : I subjoin a statement from Surgeon Cornick, of the navy, who was attached to the receiving ship at Norfolk in 1842, relative to the case of the late Chaplain McKenney.

"I recollect his case very well. His health was always delicate, and I had never supposed its state dependent on the nature of his duty, as it was almost entirely on shore, and he was not obliged to submit to exposure of any kind. I believe his health would have been the same whether he were in the navy or out of it ; and I am of opinion that the service is not chargeable for his death."

Very respectfully,

W. WHELAN.

GEO. C. WHITING, Esq.

*Commissioner of Pensions.*